

Counties Eligible for the Iowa CREP

Who can sign up, and when?

Enrollment is on a continuous basis. Eligible land must be in one of thirty-seven counties in North-Central Iowa, and must meet basic eligibility requirements for USDA's Conservation Reserve Program. Eligible lands must be situated so that the established wetland would not obstruct normal tile drainage. Pastureland is not eligible for enrollment.



Where can I get more information?

Individuals interested in the Iowa CREP should contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or Farm Services Agency office. Information also is available from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation.

Participating Agencies

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
 USDA Farm Services Agency
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 Iowa State University

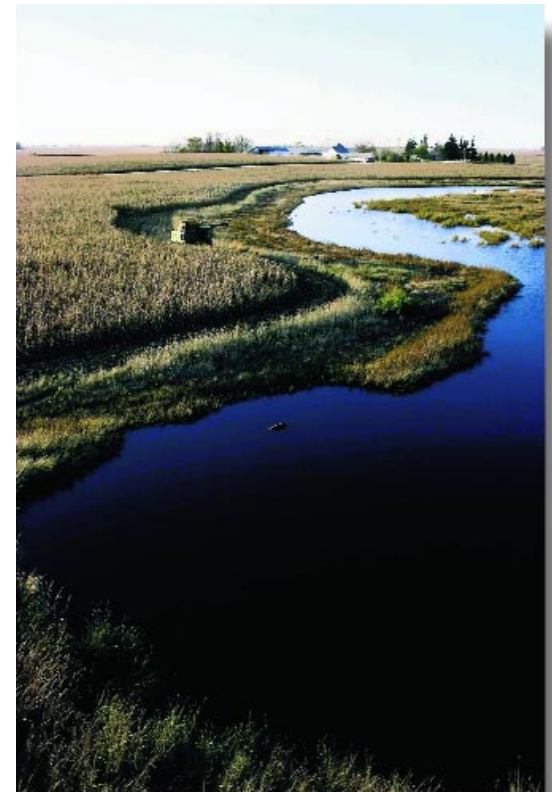
Iowa Department of Agriculture
 and Land Stewardship
 Division of Soil Conservation
 515-281-6146



Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Helping landowners protect Iowa's natural resources

A program of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the United States Department of Agriculture



What is the IOWA CREP?

The Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a local, state, federal, and private partnership to provide incentives to landowners to voluntarily establish wetlands for water quality improvement in the tile-drained regions of Iowa. The goal of the program is to reduce the movement of nitrate and other agricultural chemicals from croplands to streams and rivers.

In addition to improving water quality, these wetlands will provide wildlife habitat and increase recreational opportunities. This ten-year, \$89 million program will help establish wetlands as a common conservation buffer alternative.

How will I benefit?

Landowners enrolling cropland will receive

- an annual rent from USDA for 15 years for all enrolled acres
- 100 percent cost-share for wetland restoration and adjacent buffer establishment
- additional one-time, up-front incentive payments to encourage participating landowners to enter into longer-term agreements



Wetlands for Water Quality Improvement in Agricultural Watersheds



Why is the Iowa CREP important?

Public concern has increased about the effects our agricultural systems are having on surface water quality. In particular, nitrate contamination can negatively affect human health and contribute to nutrient enrichment problems in surface waters.

Substantially reducing nitrate losses requires a combination of:

- in-field best management practices and
- off-site landscape buffers.

For the last several years the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has supported research at Iowa State University that has demonstrated the large capacity of wetlands to remove nitrate.

The Iowa CREP will provide incentives to landowners to voluntarily establish wetlands in strategic landscape positions to reduce nitrate loads to streams and rivers.